

### **Patent Claims**

1. Beverage can (1), with a protective cover in the lid area, wherein the cover (3) is made of embossed aluminum foil.
2. Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum foil is non-laminated.
3. Beverage can according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the aluminum foil is nine to fifteen micrometers thick.
4. Beverage can according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the depth of embossing of the aluminum foil comprises sixty to one hundred micrometers.
5. Beverage can according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the aluminum foil features vermicular embossing.
6. Beverage can according to one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the protective cover (3) is joined to the beverage can (1) with adhesive.
7. Beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to the central area of the can lid (1a).
8. Beverage can according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the adhesive is applied to the upper can edge (1 c).
9. Beverage can according to one of claims 6, 7, or 8, wherein the adhesive can be activated, preferably heat-activated, and is applied to the protective cover.
10. Beverage can according to one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the protective cover (3) has a rotationally symmetrical basic shape.
11. Beverage can according to one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the protective cover (3) has a polygonal basic shape.
12. Beverage can according to claim 11, wherein the protective cover (3) has several points progressing downward along the can (1).

13. Beverage can according to one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the protective cover (3) conforms to the contour of the can lid (1a) and of the upper can edge (1c).
14. Method for application of a protective cover to a beverage can, wherein an essentially flat blank (3) of embossed aluminum foil, while covering at least the can lid (1a), is brought into contact with the beverage can (1) and, while being shaped in a ductile manner, is molded to the can lid (1a).
15. Method according to claim 14, wherein the blank (3) has a larger surface than the can lid (1a), and is also molded to the can edge (1c) and, if applicable, the can shoulder (1b).
16. Method according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the bond between the beverage can (1) and the protective cover (3) occurs exclusively as a result of the interlocking fit created during the molding process.
17. Method according to claim 14 or 15, wherein adhesive is applied to the blank (3) and/or the beverage can (1) prior to contact.
18. Method according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the blank (3") features a coating (3a) of adhesive that can be activated, preferably heat-activated, and that the coating (3a) is activated before and/or during bringing into contact of the blank (3") with the beverage can (1), preferably by means of heating the blank (3") and/or the beverage can (1).
19. Device for application of protective covers (3) in the top area of beverage can (1), comprising a conveyor apparatus (5, 8) for the upright cans, a placement apparatus (10) arranged above the conveyor apparatus, for blanks made of embossed aluminum foil, which apparatus places the protective cover onto the top area of the cans from above while pressing it, at least partially, against the lid area and/or the can edge.
20. Device according to claim 19, wherein the placement apparatus (10) for the protective cover (3) is located downstream from at least one press-on apparatus, which apparatus molds the protective cover to the lid area and/or shoulder area of the cans (1).
21. Device according to claim 19 or 20, wherein a device (27) for applying adhesive to the blanks and/or a device (19) for applying adhesive to the beverage cans (1) is provided.

22. Device according to claim 19 or 20, wherein a device (29) for zonal heating of the blanks and/or a device (28) for zonal heating of the beverage can (1), preferably the can lid (1a), is provided.

23. Blank for a protective cover for beverage can, wherein it is made of embossed aluminum foil.

24. Blank according to claim 23, wherein the aluminum foil is non-laminated, is 9 to 15 micrometers thick, and the depth of embossing comprises 60 to 100 micrometers.

25. Blank according to claim 23 or 24, wherein it features vernicular embossing.

26. Blank according to one of claims 23 to 25, wherein it features a circular basic shape, possibly with a pull-off tap (23) attached to it.

27. Blank according to one of claims 23 to 25, wherein it features a polygonal basic shape.

28. Blank according to one of claims 23 to 27, wherein it features, on one side, a full-surface or zonal coating (3a) of adhesive that can be activated, preferably heat-activated.

29. Blank according to claim 28, wherein the zonal adhesive coating (3a) is arranged in the center of the blank, preferably in a circular shape.